

4 January 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report--Nicosia Bureau--December 1981

## I. GENERAL

Although the bureau was not involved in any heavy copy flow crises in December beyond coverage of reaction to the Israeli Government's decision to annex the Golan Heights and coverage of AFP reporting on the Polish crisis, wordage for the month remained high (602,000 words). At year's end, the bureau had filed approximately double the wordage that it filed in 1981. / ?

Prospects for recruiting Arabic-language monitors improved significantly during the month when one monitor, located through the efforts of Jordan Bureau, began onboard processing and after a 5-day recruiting trip to Cairo by Deputy Chief [ ] and Arabic Section Chief [ ] established that a large, although still untested, market for English-language translators exists in Egypt. STAT

The regional engineer and bureau engineering staff were heavily involved in efforts to improve reception at our Kili remote site during the month. A metal equipment shed was erected on the grounds of the site, and wiring was installed to connect the shed with the Cyprus Telecommunications Authority building on site. New antennas and a new and greatly improved ground were also installed. Signals at the site are good, but we will not be able to get a fully satisfactory signal at the bureau until equipment arrives for installation of microwave equipment to carry the signal from the site to our rented trunk line in Paphos.

## II. OPERATIONS

A. Editorial/Monitorial

1. As of 1 December the bureau returned its formal closing time for the editorial and communications sections to 2300 GMT with the understanding that the bureau will remain open, staffed by an editor and teletypist as well as an Arabic monitor, whenever Cairo MENA Arabic news agency signoff extends beyond 2300 GMT. Subsequently, the bureau was able to close on time only six nights during December.

2. On 1 December the bureau returned primary coverage of the clandestine radio Voice of Palestine English-language newscast to Jordan Bureau. Although agreement on the switch had already been made, Voice of

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Palestine's simultaneous rescheduling of the cast to 1500 GMT from its previous 1445 GMT further helped in coverage of this cast at Jordan where the radio often only becomes monitorable around 1500.

3. The bureau temporarily assumed coverage of Jerusalem Radio on 20 December when Tel Aviv Bureau was suddenly closed by a bomb threat against the embassy.

4. Gulf Bureau assumed the bureau's coverage of Iranian clandestine radios on 25 December and 1 January while our Persian monitor was on holiday.

#### B. Lateral/Special Services

From 12 to 15 December the bureau assumed ad hoc coverage of the 1800 GMT Arabic and 1835 GMT English newscasts of Radio Mediterranean at BBC's request to help cover the Maltese elections.

### III. ADMINISTRATION

Deputy Bureau Chief [ ] and Arabic Section Chief [ ] STAT traveled to Cairo, Egypt 7-11 December on an Arabic monitor recruiting trip.

### IV. VISITS

The wives of Ambassador Raymond Ewing, DCM James Tull and Political Officer Paul Redmond toured the bureau on 7 December.

### V. OTHER

1. Well-deserved Christmas presents arrived for Arabic monitors [ ] Afram and Mike have been awarded Certificates of Distinction with cash awards and Nabil has received a QSI. STAT

2. Bureau families once again played key roles in Embassy Christmas festivities. Most notably, [ ] provided the piano accompaniment for the Ambassador's annual caroling party, a role filled last year by [ ] For the third straight year FBIS provided the official Embassy Santa Claus in the guise of [ ] That duty fell on Deputy Chief [ ] last year and on Bureau Chief [ ] the previous year. There is no truth to the popular rumor that [ ] and Regional Engineer [ ] have refused 1-year extensions at Nicosia primarily to avoid being tapped next year for Santa duty. STAT

[ ]

Nicosia Bureau Chief

#### Attachments:

- A. Production Report
- B. Engineering Report